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has been poorly organized. During the first quarter 1953, this plant averaged, per cubic meter of kiln, 930 bricks monthly from one kiln and 800 from another.(2)

In contrast, during the same quarter, Alma-Ata Brick Plant No 3, which is considered one of the most advanced Soviet enterprises, averaged 2,650 bricks monthly per cubic meter of kiln from kiln No 1. In 1948, the plant averaged 800 bricks monthly per cubic meter from this same kiln.(3) During the first quarter 1953, the plant averaged 1,767 bricks monthly per cubic meter from another kiln as well.(2)

The same plant has cut drying time by 10 hours. Employing artificial cooling, it accelerated its brick tempering process. This has increased kiln output considerably. The turnover of the plant's chamber dryer has been increased to 10,000-15,000 bricks daily.

The plant pledged to fulfill its Five-Year Plan quota in 4 years and 3 months, and has been constantly increasing its output. Since the beginning of the Five-Year Plan, it has delivered to Alma-Ata construction projects more than 11 million bricks above quota. It has cut production costs 14 rubles and 80 kopeks below planned costs.(3)

In general, however, the ministry's plants not only have failed to fulfill their quotas, but have been producing an extremely poor variety of products. Plants continue to produce brick, lime, alabaster, cement, tile, and marble slabs, just as they did in 1948. In 1952, the production of lime, alabaster, and tile was far below 1950 output. Brick is the only building material which Alma-Ata building projects have been able to obtain in sufficient quantity from the city's construction materials enterprises.

The ministry itself is partially responsible for the industry's lag. Besides the failure to fulfill quotas and the poor variety of products (2), capital construction work is lagging.(1) In 1952, the ministry fulfilled its plan for capital construction work less than 60 percent. It also failed to fulfill its plan for the first quarter 1953. New potential is being introduced very slowly.(2) Construction work on important industrial enterprises takes 5 or more years. A cement materials plant has been under construction in Akzhar since 1947. Nevertheless, as of May 1953, the builders erecting the plant had used only 18 percent of the fund appropriated for its construction. A similar situation exists in the case of a number of other plant construction projects.

The dates for putting the Ust'-Kamenogorsk, Petropavlovsk, and Kustanay brick plants and the Sas-Tyube Lime Plant into operation have been postponed several times.(1) Although the Ust'-Kamenogorsk and Petropavlovsk brick plants were to have started operations in 1952, neither of these plants had done so by May 1953. In May 1952, the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Kazakh SSR was informed that the brick plant in Kustanay, construction of which was started in 1948 and which is expected to have an estimated capacity of 7.5 million bricks annually, was ready to start operation. Later it was found that the kiln, dryer, and forming apparatus were not yet ready for full-scale operation. The plant still was not operating in May 1953.(2)

Quite frequently, as in the case of the Chimkent, Semipalatinsk, Taldy-Kurgan, and other plants, enterprises have been put into operation although there were numerous cases of uncompleted work and the quality of workmanship was poor. As a result, it has been impossible to utilize the plants at full capacity without spending additional funds for necessary changes.(1) The Taldy-Kurgan plant was accepted by the state commission in 1952, although it had no water supply at the time. This plant is now forced to haul water from a nearby reservoir.(2)

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Brick and lime are the principal building materials produced by the republic's construction materials industry. Perforated brick is produced only in small quantity. Furthermore, the building materials which are being produced are extremely poor in quality. Despite this, the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Kazakh SSR has been doing practically nothing either to expand the industry or the variety of building materials or to improve the quality of such materials. The ministry has virtually no enterprises in Gur'yevskaya, Dzhambul'skaya, Pavlodarskaya, Aktyubinskaya, and Kokchetav'skaya Oblasts; nor are there any in the industrial centers of Karaganda, Altay, or Emba.

Not only has the republic ministry been giving very little attention to the industry, but the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry USSR, itself, has been making very little effort to correct the lag in the Kazakh SSR construction materials industry. Within recent years, not one responsible official of the USSR ministry has visited Alma-Ata.

The republic has two planning organizations. Both of these are small and specialize primarily in designing civilian living projects, rather than construction materials plants. As a result, plants are in the planning stage for 5-6 or more years. The construction of a number of brick plants is being delayed because of the lack of a standard tunnel kiln design.

In the interests of the republic's economy, it will be necessary to carry out geological research and to plan for the erection of a ceramic block plant in Alma-Ata, a silicate brick plant in Pavlodar, brick plants in Ural'sk, Kzyl-Orde, Dzhambul, Akmolinsk, Turkestan, Leningorsk, and Kokchetava, and for the erection of several lime plants in the republic. Simultaneously, it will be necessary to carry out surveys to determine raw material deposits near the large industrial centers of Karaganda, Temir-Tau, Dzhezkazgan, Balkash, and Aktyubinsk. Furthermore, the construction of plants must be hastened in sections where raw materials have already been developed. These include a gypsum plant in Dzhambul, a silicate brick plant in Semipalatinsk, a local cement materials plant in Akzhar, brick plants in Ust'-Kamenogorsk, Petropavlovsk, and Kustanay, a ceramic products plant in Lenger, the second part of the lime plant in Sas-Tyube, and three stone quarries in Alma-Ata, Badam, and Shchuchinsk.(1)

SOURCES

1. Moscow, Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov, 23 May 53
2. Ibid., 16 May 53
3. Alma-Ata, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 31 May 53

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